



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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RIPTA FUNDS KEEP ROLLING IN

Senator Chafee Announces \$375,000

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee has announced that an additional \$375,889 has been awarded to the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). The funds will be used to continue the state's efforts to improve transit services to suburban and rural industrial parks, as well as between low-income areas and employment centers.

This grant provides the remaining balance of the USDOT's fiscal year 2005 funding for RIPTA operations. For fiscal 2005, a total of \$1,635,449 has been allocated from the USDOT to RIPTA for operating purposes.

"RIPTA operations are essential to aid the physically and economically disadvantaged, and to preserve and protect the environment," Senator Chafee said. "This additional funding is great news for all Rhode Islanders who depend on RIPTA as well as those concerned about our quality of air. I am also happy to hear that portions of this total award will go to RIPTA's Flex Service program, which has proven critical to individuals with disabilities living in suburban areas and rural communities, as well as those without the means to get to and from their jobs, daycare, or other places," he continued.

In addition to enhancing existing fixed route bus service, RIPTA will be using funding to continue the Flex Service Program, which offers residents of suburban and rural communities the option of reserving a RIPTA ride or picking up the "Flex vehicle" at one of its regularly scheduled stops. This unique service operates in five areas across the state, and will pick up and drop off people at their homes, at their jobs, or daycare centers.

Earlier this year, Senator Chafee also secured funds in the amount of \$2,535,741 for the procurement of 12 replacement vehicles and for security improvements to RIPTA's Elmwood garage facility, as part of the fiscal year 2005 Department of Transportation Appropriations Act.

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